



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
March 25, 2002

Assessment for Learning

Statewide Testing Nears Completion

The test window closes on March 29. Thanks to everyone for great participation, professionalism, and support. The timeline of important dates is down to the following three:

April 8—Final day to ship scoring materials to Riverside

April 12 - May 3—Districts receive local results from Riverside

May 24—OPI receives state summary reports from Riverside

April 8 Deadline Means Timely Reports for All

Iowa Test reports and District Customized Skills Reports **depend on the April 8 deadline** for shipping scoring materials to Riverside. All scoring materials must be shipped to Riverside by the end of the day, **Monday, April 8**. Please use the labels Riverside provided in the trailer package and follow the directions provided by Riverside. Scoring materials can be sent before April 8.

Riverside Will Ship Reports

The reports from Riverside to districts will be in two shipments.

In the first shipment, districts will receive the “off the shelf reports” from Riverside. These include the student score labels, the list of student scores, the group summaries of student scores, the parent report, and the group narrative summaries.

After all district and state “off the shelf reports” are shipped, the Customized Skills Reports will be sent to districts. The reports in this second shipment align to Montana standards, and they cannot be generated until after all district and state “off the shelf reports” are complete.



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
www.opi.state.mt.us

Superintendent McCulloch Responds to NWEA Questions

Excerpts from March 15 Memo to Superintendents, County Superintendents and other Interested Persons. The complete text can be found: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/NWEAMAPS.pdf>

“I have been receiving numerous letters and e-mails from educators all across Montana regarding suggestions for the newly passed and signed education bill (HR1). Much of that correspondence has focused on the Northwest Evaluation Association’s tests, MAP and ALT. Many of you have suggested that the State of Montana, through the Board of Public Education, adopt one or both of these tests to fulfill part of our federal assessment requirements. I have enjoyed the enthusiasm you have expressed for this new teaching tool you have found successful for your students.”

“In wanting to have an accurate response for you, I called Allan Olson, President of Northwest Evaluation Association on February 6, 2002. Mr. Olson agreed that the current NWEA tests that many schools in Montana are utilizing will **not** meet the federal requirements for either grade level testing or for using our state content standards. He indicated that NWEA plans to develop a test that would meet the federal requirements and would retain the achievement level testing many of you like as a teaching tool. Mr. Olson indicated they have received our RFP (Request For Proposal) and are considering responding to it.”

Groups to Evaluate Criterion-Referenced Test Proposals

Two groups will provide input on the responses to the RFP for the criterion-referenced test that will become Phase 2 of MontCAS, the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System.

The **RFP Evaluation Committee** will review and score the proposals that were received for the RFP. The committee includes two representatives from the Office of Public Instruction and seven teachers, curriculum directors, and administrators from large, medium, and small districts from different parts of the state. The Evaluation Committee meetings are open to the public: April 8-10, 9am - 5pm, Training Room (room 129), Office of Public Instruction, 1227 11th Avenue, Helena.

The **RFP Advisory Group**, consisting of representatives from professional curriculum groups, professional educational organizations, and the Office of Public Instruction, will provide input and expertise to assist the Evaluation Committee. The advisors will individually view proposals and submit written advice between March 22 and April 5.

RFP Evaluation Committee

BJ Granbery, Chair - OPI

Jeff Weldon, Attorney - OPI

Bob McKean - Missoula Public Schools

Claudette Morton - Small Schools Alliance

Josephine Corcoran - Rocky Boy Public Schools

Dennis Clarkson - Polson Public Schools

Joette Speake - Colstrip

Sherrill Dolezilek - Townsend Public Schools

Kathy Bowen - Lockwood Public Schools

RFP Advisory Group

- Three representatives each chosen by the following groups
Montana State Reading Council
Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Montana Science Teachers Association
- The following groups will be invited (at their expense) to send one representative to examine submitted proposals and formulate and submit written advice regarding how the proposals would affect their constituencies: MREA, MSBA, SAM, MEA/MFT, PTA, MWIEA, MABE, AGATE, MCASE, MACSSC, MASCD
- The following advisory councils will be invited to do the same with the cost for one person covered by the OPI budget that normally supports each advisory council:
Title I Committee of Practitioners
Assessment Advisory Team
MACIE (Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education)
Special Education Advisory Committee
Montana Commission on Teaching
- Additional advisors from within OPI will include:
Judy Snow - general assessment issues
Linda Peterson - standards and alignment issues
Steve Meredith - Internet issues if online assessments are proposed
Marilyn Pearson - students with disabilities
Lynn Hinch - students with limited English proficiency

ESEA Reauthorization Update Online

This ESEA Update by Nancy Coopersmith and Spencer Sartorius from the Office of Public Instruction is the second in a series of informational pieces that will provide current information regarding the reauthorization of ESEA and the process that districts will use to access the available funding available. It is online:

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Supt/NewsStories/02550E4A3B.ncl>

For further information, contact:

Judy Snow

State Assessment Director

Montana Office of Public Instruction

PO Box 202501

Helena, MT 59620-2501

(406) 444-3656

jsnow@state.mt.us